

Dear Hadassah Friends,

So now, at last December has arrived. For many of us, it will be just as busy as October was with all the Jewish holidays. I think perhaps December seems even more frenetic because we have fewer hours of daylight to accomplish all of our tasks. Since the first day of autumn in September, sunrise comes later and sunset happens earlier with each passing day. In Boston, sundown can be as early as 3:54 pm. In Jerusalem, the sun bathes the City of David with its golden light at 6:30 am, but sets only 10 hours later in the month of December. Shopping for and giving Chanukah gifts, frying latkes and sofganyot, making those end-of-year donations...there's only so much we can accomplish. More on this later in this December message.

Our new Tampa Ameet Board will be installed **at our yearly Chanukkah party on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jane Strom. Congratulations and Behatzlachah to our Board:**

**President – Etty Segal**

**OVO – Andrea Holper**

**Treasurer – Luise Burman**

**VP Fundraising – Michele Norriss**

**VP Membership – Beth Levin and Elaine Vidars**

**PRAZE VP - Kathy Wasserman and Jane StromAnita**

**Anita Greenberg- Corresponding Secretary**

**Communication VP - Iris Sandaw and Sharon Richmond**

**Recording Secretary - Jane Strom**

**We thank Fanny and Cliff Reiss for their enormous contribution to our chapter and we wish them only the best.**

Chanukah (12/13-12/20) celebrates a well known miracle. We all learned in Hebrew School about the oil which was only enough for 1 day, but lasted 8 days until more holy oil could be produced. This is a perfect metaphor for Hadassah. We do more with less. We are called upon to perform medical miracles on a daily basis. The teachers and staff of our Youth Aliyah Villages produce a miraculous transformation on the young people in their care. They create scholars who are healthy in mind and body, build an even stronger Israeli State. Young Judaea camps can make committed Zionists out of our American kids in just 4 short weeks during the summer. Hadassah women make miracles happen. And Hadassah has been making miracles happen for almost 106 years. Your donations may seem small to you, but Hadassah manages to magnify your dollars by careful use. I urge you to make a donation to Hadassah before the end of the tax year. You will be helping Hadassah perform miracles.

As I clean last year's wax off my *hanukkiah* (that's 8 branches, not the *menorah's* 7), I'm thinking about my role as president of Tampa Ameet. I am the *shamash*. That's the candle in the middle, higher than the rest, but servicing them all by lending my flame to light them up. I may stand taller than the other candles, but by the time I've done my "kindling" duties, I'm more or less even with my fellow *Chanukah licht* (Chanukah candles). My job is igniting their passion and possibilities, night after night, until we're all burning brightly. I am proud to use my powers to spark ideas in others and to shine with my friends for as long as we can. But, I want to remind you that you, too, can be the *shamash*. Take on a job with Hadassah and ignite the passion of 8 other women to help you.) Keep the *chanukiah* burning for Hadassah, the Power of Women Who Do.

Chag Sameach,

Etty Segal

President of the Tampa Ameet Chapter